

Senate Resolution 166

By: Senator Reed of the 35th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Ms. Xernona Clayton; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Ms. Xernona Clayton was named the 2008 Crystal Customer Honoree during
3 Hyatt Regency Atlanta's 7th Annual Heritage Celebration; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Clayton began her career in television in 1967 when she became the South's
5 first African American to have her own television show on the CBS affiliate in Atlanta,
6 Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, employed with Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., for nearly 30 years, Ms.
8 Clayton was one of the highest ranking female employees with the company, serving as
9 Corporate Vice President of Urban Affairs; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Clayton is the founder, CEO, and President of the Trumpet Awards
11 Foundation, Inc., and the creative and executive producer of the foundation's Trumpet
12 Awards event, which was initiated in 1993 to highlight accomplishments and contributions
13 of leaders in the African American community and is televised to over 185 countries around
14 the world; and

15 WHEREAS, she has long served as a leader in Civil Rights projects, coordinating Atlanta's
16 African American doctors in 1966 to spearhead the Doctors' Committee for Implementation
17 project, which resulted in the desegregation of all hospital facilities in Atlanta, served as a
18 model for other states throughout the country and was honored by the National Medical
19 Association for its impact; and

20 WHEREAS, Ms. Clayton's persistent fight against prejudice resulted in the denouncing of
21 the Ku Klux Klan by the group's Grand Dragon in 1966, who credited Ms. Clayton with
22 influence on his decision; and

23 WHEREAS, Ms. Clayton diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of her
24 time, talents, and energy toward the betterment of her community and state with her work
25 as the Georgia Department of Labor's Board of Review Commissioner and after her
26 appointment to the State Motion Picture and Television Commission by Governor Jimmy
27 Carter, serving as the first woman and first African American for both of these prestigious
28 posts; and

29 WHEREAS, her dedication to the community is evident in her service on the boards of the
30 Martin Luther King Center, the Atlanta Urban League, the Southwest Community Hospital,
31 and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America; and

32 WHEREAS, Ms. Clayton's professional and civic leadership has been highly honored with
33 features on the magazine covers of *The New York Times*, *Women Looking Ahead*, *Onyx*, and
34 *Black Excellence*, and her recognition as Essence Woman by *Essence* magazine and
35 Personality of the Month by *Movie Mirror* magazine; and

36 WHEREAS, it is fitting that this body express its appreciation to Ms. Clayton for the great
37 credit she reflects on her community and state.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
39 recognize Ms. Xernona Clayton for her outstanding leadership abilities and her many
40 important contributions to the State of Georgia.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Xernona Clayton.